



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/065,336	10/04/2002	Jean-Hiram Coffy	F-575	2199

919 7590 12/24/2003

PITNEY BOWES INC.  
35 WATERVIEW DRIVE  
P.O. BOX 3000  
MSC 26-22  
SHELTON, CT 06484-8000

EXAMINER

WOO, RICHARD SUKYOON

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3629

DATE MAILED: 12/24/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,336

Applicant(s)

COFFY ET AL.

Examiner

Richard Woo

Art Unit

3629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1) The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2) Claims 12 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Pintsov et al. (US 5,612,889).

**W.R.T. Claim 12:**

Pintsov et al. discloses a method comprising:

obtaining a user profile (512);

obtaining a mail piece identifier from a mail piece (mail piece ID, 902);

obtaining customer data from the mail piece (504);

obtaining a mail piece user profile; and

comparing the mail piece user profile to the user profile (see Fig. 5, matching process).

**W.R.T. Claim 15:**

Pintsov et al. discloses a method comprising:

Art Unit: 3629

obtaining a mail piece identifier from a mail piece (scanning the barcode);  
obtaining a stored mail piece identifier (step 512); and  
comparing the mail piece identifier to the stored mail piece identifier (see Fig. 5).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3) The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4) Claims 1 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andreasson (US 2002/0057824).

**W.R.T. Claim 1:**

Andreasson discloses a method comprising:

obtaining a registered digital pen meter (105) registered to the user (see Fig. 1);  
handwriting a return address field (see Fig. 1) remotely;  
handwriting a mail piece identifier remotely (the user's own handwriting evidencing the identifier);  
facilitating the transfer of digital pen data to a server (see Fig. 1); and  
placing the mail piece in the mail stream.

However, Andreasson does not specifically disclose the method comprising:

handwriting a return address field on a mail piece; and

Art Unit: 3629

handwriting a mail piece identifier on the mail piece.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to handwrite the address and mail piece identifier on the mail piece for the purpose of providing a homegrown system and method for addressing an item on the mail piece and obtaining address information, utilizing programmed computers, where the address information comprises a digitally represented graph of a handwritten address, written by a user.

**W.R.T. Claims 8-9:**

Andreasson further discloses the method wherein:

the mail piece identifier comprises data obtained from a destination address field (see Fig. 1 for the graphical image representation of the destination address field).

5) Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andreasson in view of Pintsov et al..

Andreasson discloses the invention as cited above but does not expressly disclose the method further includes receiving an indication that postage was paid.

Pintsov et al. teaches, for a mail processing system, that the system provides an indication that postage was paid.

Art Unit: 3629

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the invention of Andreasson such that the user receives the indication that postage was paid, as taught by Pintsov et al. , for the purpose of providing appropriate payment and security measure.

6) Claims 3-7 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andreasson in view of DeSchrijver (US 6,311,042)

Andreasson discloses the invention as recited earlier but does not expressly the limitations of Claims 3-7 and 10-11.

DeSchrijver teaches, for a system and method for imaging written information with a mobile telephone set, that the system and method comprises:

wherein the user selects the identifier;

obtaining biometric data relating to the pen strokes of the user (see Fig. 1);

wherein an identifier comprises data obtained from at least one pen stroke of captured from writing on the writing surface (see Fig. 1); and

wherein the identifier comprises pen stroke data captured from the writing surface and is stored to be matched with a scan of the writing surface (104 in Fig. 4).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to obtain data from at least one pen stroke of captured from writing on the mail piece and compare the data with the scan of the mail piece, as

Art Unit: 3629

taught by DeSchrijver, for the purpose of providing a system for verifying the identity of a user at a remote location.

7) Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pintsov et al. in view of DeSchrijver (US 6,311,042)

Pintsov et al. discloses the invention as recited earlier but does not expressly the limitations of Claims 13-14.

DeSchrijver teaches, for a system and method for imaging written information with a mobile telephone set, that the system and method comprises:

obtaining biometric data relating to the pen strokes of the user (see Fig. 1);

wherein an identifier comprises data obtained from at least one pen stroke of captured from writing on the writing surface (see Fig. 1); and

wherein the identifier comprises pen stroke data captured from the writing surface and is stored to be matched with a scan of the writing surface (104 in Fig. 4).

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to obtain data from at least one pen stroke of captured from writing on the mail piece and compare the data with the scan of the mail piece, as taught by DeSchrijver, for the purpose of providing a system for verifying the identity of a user at a remote location.

***Conclusion***

8) The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 6,275,745 is cited to show a system and method for verifying the delivery of a mailing and the material contained within the mailing.

US 2002/0126105 is cited to show a device and method for contemporaneous creation of a digital copy of a written document using a digital pen.

US 2002/0035687 is cited to show a method and system for secure wireless transmission of information from a sender to a receiver. A secure note using a digital pen is used for defining the receiving device.

US 6,577,300 is cited to show a system and method for recording and input to a programmable stamp of data to be included on a substrate in both human and machine readable forms.

US 6,285,916 is cited to show a delivery tracking system for tracking parcels during an internal state of delivery within an organization after receipt of the parcel from a parcel delivery system.

JP 2001-43000 is cited to show a mail tool which enables a user to easily enjoy handwritten e-mail by using a digital pen and a tablet.

"Anoto, Subsidiary of C technologies, Initiates Collaboration with John Dickinson, UK's Leading Producer of Stationary Products" is cited to show a digital paper products based on the Anoto technology, which has three components: ordinary paper made



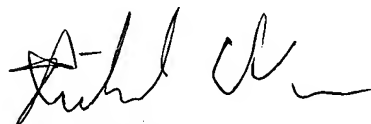
Art Unit: 3629

digital by the invisible Anoto patter digital pens with Bluetooth communications, and services delivered to the market by a cellular network operator.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Woo whose telephone number is 703-308-7830. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:30 AM -5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 703-308-2702. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0861.



Richard Woo  
Patent Examiner  
GAU 3629  
December 10, 2003



JOHN G. WEISS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600